Opinion Piece Construction of R20 Forum on thejakartapost.com: Van Dijk's Model Critical Discourse Analysis

Herlyna Nuraini[a.1], Irham Yudha Pratama[a.2], Ita Rosita[a.3], and Keyita Ahnaf[a.4*]

[a)] Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia
[1)] herlyna3006@student.uns.ac.id; [2)] irham.yudhap@student.uns.ac.id; [3)] itarosita@student.uns.ac.id;
[4)] keyitaaa@student.uns.ac.id
[*] Corresponding Author: Keyita Ahnaf

ABSTRACT

Ideology flows through ideas or discourses, whether deliberate or not. This study aims to analyze the construction of an opinion piece entitled "R20, global change and transformation of religions" published by The Jakarta Post. Using the descriptive qualitative method, this study examines the structure of the text with the Critical Discourse Analysis model that Teun A. Van Dijk proposed. Van Dijk's CDA model divided the text structure into three parts: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The result of the study explain that microstructure focused on the textual content of the whole news, superstructure discuss the integration and interrelationships between the subtopics contained in the discourse text, and the microstructure examines that the metaphor and idiomatic expressions aided the writer to get the message across. The finding shows mainly focus on the text structures and linguistic aspects observable in the text and what they imply. The analysis indicates that there is a connection between ideology and the language used in the discourse. By looking into the opinion piece and considering who wrote it, the purpose of the text becomes apparent. The article displays the ideology, as well as the social and political stance of the writer. Linguistic evidence shows the points that the writer emphasized in the discourse.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Online news media, Opinion piece, Teun A. Van Dijk.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the base of communication. It is an important element to voice out a standpoint. Through language, the standpoint can be raised into a lot of approaches, including building influences in politics. As the function of a language, ideas could be delivered in defined points with certain intentions behind them. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides means to analyze a discussion or ideas surrounding a certain topic. Teun A. Van Dijk proposes a CDA approach that focuses on discourses in the social and political contexts. Online news media is an integral part of social life, becoming a crucial medium of discourse as it presents various types of articles, from factual news to opinion pieces. The mass media has influence over the news and public perception of government policy, and even plays a significant part in persuading the public to oppose political actors (Afdholy et al., 2020). Similarly, Suwarno & Sahayu (2020) argued that the language of mass media possibly affects the general public's view on the reported matter. This study aims to analyze one of the opinion pieces from The Jakarta Post entitled "R20, global change and transformation of religions" with Van Dijk's CDA approach. This article is about the Religion of Twenty (R20) forum in Bali as an attempt to bring religions into the public domain and partake in resolving global issues. Hence, this analysis will provide new insights into the research of the article that reflects ideological, social, and political

contexts. Additionally, the analysis will reveal how the writer's ideas lead the discourse. Pratiwi et al. (2020) conveyed that journalists or writers are the dominant ones in the media discourse.

Using Teun A. Van Dijk's theory as a guide, the primary purpose of this work is to analyze the structure of an article published in The Jakarta Post and headlined "R20, global change and transformation of religions." According to Van Dijk (2008), the methodology of the analysis can be broken down into three distinct parts. Social cognition is comprised of several different schemas, including person schemes, self-schemas, role schemas, and event schemas. The structure of the text consists of microstructure, macrostructure, and superstructure. The macrostructure denotes the work's primary themes (semantic, syntax, stylistic, and rhetoric). The exercise of power and the capacity to affect discourse are both essential components of social analysis. This paper will concentrate on the investigation of the ideological, social, and political settings that are present in the news text. This is in accordance with the background of the research that will be conducted.

Critical Discourse Analysis or CDA is a way to reveal the communication aim of the social stereotypical mindset applied to a proposition. As a communicative event, discourse refers to any kind of communication, both written and verbal (Carreon & Svetanant, 2017). According to Van Dijk (2008), CDA applied to such problems mainly concerning political issues, power abuse, and inequality treatment of a definite social group. Van Dijk also added, CDA mainly focused the discussion on the properties of language relating to the context and how the speaker would choose the preferred language features, influencing the others' minds. Similarly, Afdholy et al. (2020) pointed out that power not only uses formal institutions as an enforcement but it is also established through ideas or discourses. CDA applies textual features to uncover social ideologies according to the linguistics perspective. The analysis taken under CDA considers its impact on society. What makes it more interesting is that people can use figurative language aspects to influence others into their statements.

Bouvier and Machin (2018) added that Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) presents the overview purpose of a discourse by its aspects lingering in the text. Looking at different properties within the discourse, CDA might use several approaches adapting studies. However, each approach has its own benefits and drawbacks since they focus on one specific property. Research by Aini and Widodo (2018) supported the CDA putting the interest on social and communication in the media. CDA is also capable of gathering society's ideology influencing them to stand after what they believe is true. Different points were brought up by Syukri et al. (2019) that CDA is recognized by the relation of the subject and acts as the object of studying a language. Opinions can easily be built by comprehending the contents guided by the author. Nevertheless, CDA has so many approaches to help researchers to get a grip on the content implied in it.

Critical discourse analysis plays a vital role in understanding the complexity of opinion construction in the mass media, especially when dealing with sensitive religious and global political issues (Roslyng & Dindler, 2022). In an information age laden with diverse perspectives and interests, the mass media often becomes an arena for discourse battles that influence public perception. Critical discourse analysis allows researchers to uncover layers of hidden meanings, reveal underlying ideologies, and examine power relations manifest in media texts (Bouvier & Machin, 2018). With a focus on religion and global politics, this approach becomes even more crucial given its potential impact on interfaith relations, international policy and global stability. Through critical discourse analysis, we can gain a deeper understanding of how the media constructs reality, frames issues, and potentially influences public opinion in a broader context.

Thejakartapost.com, as one of the leading online media in Indonesia, plays a significant role in shaping public opinion on international events. With its reputation as a credible English-language

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news source, the site reaches not only local readers but also a global audience interested in Indonesian perspectives on international issues. Through its news coverage, opinion articles and in-depth analyses, thejakartapost.com acts as an information bridge between Indonesia and the international community. Its ability to present diverse viewpoints and in-depth analyses of global events has a substantial impact on the understanding and perception of its readers. In this context, the platform not only functions as an information provider, but also as a discourse shaper that can influence public discourse and even Indonesia's foreign policy (Saud & Margono, 2021) . Therefore, analysing the content of thejakartapost.com is important to understand how this media constructs and frames international events for Indonesian and global readers.

Several studies using Van Dijk's CDA model in newspapers have often been conducted by several researchers. Van Dijk's CDA model helps researchers see how the discourse structure produced by the media helps reveal meaning, especially in the context of religion, this can be seen in the research of Supita and Hamdani (2023) and Haryanti and Hamdani (2023). In both studies, Van Dijk's CDA model was used to find the rhetorical structure used by the media in shaping meaning. Van Dijk's CDA model can also be used to see how a writer or speaker uses rhetorical schemes as their socio-political strategy to create meaning as found in the research of Javaid et al (2022) and How (2022). Previous studies have shown how Van Dijk's CDA model has an important influence in linguistic research, especially examining how an ideology is formed in a rhetorical structure.

Research on the construction of the R20 forum in opinion articles on thejakartapost.com has an urgency that cannot be ignored, given its potentially significant impact on public perception and policy. As a forum that connects religious aspects with global issues in the context of the G20, the R20 represents an important shift in the dynamics of international relations and diplomacy. Analysing how media of the calibre of thejakartapost.com frames and interprets this forum can provide valuable insights into the formation of public opinion in Indonesia regarding the role of religion in global politics. Furthermore, Wash (2020) explain that the construction of the discourse has the potential to influence not only public perception, but also the direction of government policy in its engagement in international forums. By understanding the discursive strategies used in opinion articles, this research can reveal the dominant narrative, the underlying ideology, as well as the possible long-term implications for Indonesia's position in faith-based diplomacy in the global arena. Therefore, the urgency of this research lies in its contribution to understanding and anticipating the development of public discourse and policy formulation related to Indonesia's role in global initiatives such as R20.

2. METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research methodology. It was meant to define the structure of the opinion piece titled "R20, global change and the transformations of religions" from thejakartapost.com, which was published online on November 1, 2022. Descriptive data are data that consist mostly of words as opposed to numbers. This study comprised data citations to enhance the report's relevance to the words and actions of individuals (Colavizza et al., 2020). The description became crucial for obtaining a comprehensive explanation and comprehension of the discussed topic. In addition, the interpretation process was carried out as part of the analysis in order to uncover the meanings of the data. The material was collected from online news sources via written texts. Hence, this research applied document study as the data collection method. By using personal computers and laptops, researchers scrutinized and analyzed the data with the selected theory.

According to Van Dijk (2013) at various levels of description, news media discourses ought to be analyzed in terms of their structures. As is typical in structural or generative linguistics, this kind of

structural analysis does not restrict itself to the grammatical description of phonological, morphological, syntactic, or semantic structures of isolated words, word groups, or sentences. Higher-level, more intricate properties of discourses include stylistic and rhetorical dimensions, coherence relations between sentences, overall topics, and schematic forms. As a result, media discourses receive an integrated account of their more general as well as their more distinct organization in the forms of monological, printed, or spoken text and dialogical interaction.The opinion article, "R20, global change and transformation of religions", was collected from thejakartapost.com and then analyzed with the Critical Discourse Analysis theory by Teun A. Van Dijk.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section provided the Critical Discourse Analysis of the opinion piece titled "R20, global change and the Transformations of Religions" from thejakartapost.com. The analysis focused on the piece's structure, divided into: a) macrostructure (thematic), b) superstructure (schematic), and c) microstructure (semantic, syntax, stylistic, and rhetoric). Van Dijk's CDA puts significance on the ideological aspect of discourse, which is observable in the sociological and political discourses, the researchers classified the text into the following structures:

3.1 Macrostructure

Macrostructure analysis applies in this approach by paying attention to the whole text and defining the main topics. It mainly raised the text in the general scope or the main points. In accordance with the Table 1, this particular news took the idea from the general to the specific view. The progressions of the content were done practically in a very well flow that led to the next point.

Table 1. Macrostructure analysis

Theme/Topic	Subtopic	Findings
Religion Twenty (R20) forum was held in Bali to bring religion back to the public domain.	Leaders of religions and sects were attending R20 to help solve global humane issues as well as sociopolitical issues, COVID-19 case, and the war between Ukraine and Russia.	● As many as hundreds of religious and sect leaders took a step up in responding to the mess and conflicts happening globally. The R20 forum took place in Bali at the beginning of November this year. ● Religious organizations from countries around the world gathered in a place deliberating that this forum could possibly help solve global issues. They insist on giving legitimate perspectives as religions' views will help to embark on global efforts in accordance with their roles in the public domain. ● Gus Yahya mightily reassured to exclude the idea of them oppressing the partake in a war under the name of faith. This led to religious doctrine that is believed to cause violence against each other.

Theme/Topic	Subtopic	Findings
		• Grasping on those issues, R20 will be giving a chance to every religious organization to voice out their perception following their religious traditions.

The news grew from explaining the Religious Twenty (R20) itself, then began to introduce the root of the issues and issues' background, and topped with attempts envisioned to solve the global issues. As microstructure focused on the textual content of the whole news, it brought the idea of readers successfully understanding the contents of the text. With its great way of explanation and writing style, that purpose has already been achieved.

3.2 Superstructure

The superstructure, also known as the schematic, emphasizes which part comes first and a plan to hide later-needed information. According to van Dijk's theory, the journalist uses the schematic meaning to support specific topics that are conveyed in a particular flow because the schematic flow shows how a part of the text is made and arranged. From the beginning to the end, a discourse typically follows a schematic in the Table 2.

Table 2. Superstructure analysis

Schematic	Findings
Introduction	This discourse starts with a clear statement with the following sentences: "R20, a gathering of religious and sectarian leaders organized to capitalize on the momentum generated by the G20 Leaders' Summit, will focus on "revealing and nurturing religion as a source of global solutions: an international movement for shared moral and spiritual values". The event on November 2 and 3 will be attended by over 300 religious and sectarian leaders from all over the world, including Indonesia."
	Furthermore, this sentence is reinforced by the other sentence, namely: "In many nations, religion has been…" Repetition of those words proves that the priority is to tell that religion plays an important role in overcoming various global problems kept out of the public eye and treated as a private matter. Then again, "in certain nations, religions would be required exclusively to give authenticity to specific perspectives and choices taken by outside of religions," including poverty, sociopolitical polarization, COVID-19, and the ongoing Russian-Ukraine war.
Content	Yahya Cholil Staquf, chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the largest Islamic organization in Indonesia, and the co-initiator of the R20 forum with Saudi Arabia's Rabithah Alam Islami (the Muslim World League) has envisioned the R20 as a global movement rather than just an event that would put religions in the public eye to aid in resolving global issues. Yahya, more commonly referred to as Gus Yahya, has proposed that religions collaborate globally to address

Schematic	Findings
	global issues. This idea actually fits in with a lot of studies in international publications and diplomacy that say that religions will always play a bigger role in the public sphere. The majority of viewpoints, on the other hand, are reluctant to place religions in public domains due to their own problems. In Europe, many people are still traumatized by the ghost of the Medieval period, when religions served as a justification for power to oppress and wage long wars in the name of religion. Gus Yahya suggested as a response to the concerns that religions be true to themselves and acknowledge fundamental issues that have been left out of discussions among religious leaders. The doctrine of religious truth and claims, which are frequently not discussed with others, are one of the issues in question.
Closing	As a result, every religious and sect leader will be instructed at this R20 forum to disseminate their ideas about universal values based on spirituality and good religious traditions and to get rid of bad doctrines and traditions that have been around for years or even centuries. By prohibiting its adherents from referring to non-Muslims as kafir but as human beings (al-insan) or citizens (al-muwathin), NU has established a precedent. This decision was made at the National Ulema Council Meeting in Banjar Patoman, West Java, in 2019, the second-highest NU forum. As a result, NU has developed fiqh siyasah (governance) within the framework of the Indonesian nation-state based on the five pillars of Pancasila and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (unity in diversity), each with its own scientific and methodological foundation. There aren't any one-time ideas or doctrines, but the R20 momentum is expected to become a global mainstream phenomenon in the coming days.

The coherence of the discourse text that is meant here is to discuss the integration and interrelationships between the subtopics contained in the discourse text schematically or based on the structure and interrelationships between the elements of the text. This discourse can be considered coherent because the elements of the explanation of the topic support each other or it can be said that the subtopics contained in the text of the discourse support each other in the topic or theme of the discourse.

3.3 Microstructure

The microstructure is relevant to the word selection that the journalist made while constructing the sentences that he used in his posts. This includes the usage of sentence forms, pronouns, and

coherence. A microstructure analysis could be conducted by considering semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical characteristics, as indicated in Table 3. The article was compatible with its title, "R20, global change and transformation of religions," where the content generates public opinion, as shown by the semantics in Table 3.

Table 3. Microstructure analysis

Semantics	Findings
Background	An opinion piece published by thejakartapost.com reported that religions would collaborate on an international effort to address global humanitarian issues such as poverty, sociopolitical polarization, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
Details	The journalist revealed the reasoning behind the perspective that some individuals possess, which does not seek to provide room for religion to participate in global efforts. It specifically referred to the elimination of religious doctrine in politics.
Aim	The title of the piece of news that was published on thejakartapost.com makes the article's subject matter very apparent. The writer as a chairman of the R20 organizing committee worked to persuade public opinion in favor of accepting religion as an integral part of the global humanitarian movement.
Syntactic	**Findings**
Sentence form	Inductive form refers to the paragraph that places the primary ideas or concepts at the beginning of the paragraph. To put it another way, the most important aspect of the news is discussed right at the beginning of the paragraph.
Coherence	Yahya Cholil Staquf, chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), Indonesia's largest Islamic organization, initiated the R20 forum together with Rabithah Alam Islami (the Muslim World League), which is based in Saudi Arabia. Yahya Cholil Staquf has envisioned the R20 as a global movement, not just an event, that would place religions in the public domain in order to assist in the resolution of global problems. He hopes that this will happen. (Paragraph 3)
Stylistic (Lexicon)	**Findings**
Pronouns	There is neither a pronoun to address the reader nor the writer himself. Since the article was published in an online news portal, it was written as if it was a news report. Besides reporting the event, the writer also presented his insights and opinions without addressing anyone with a pronoun. Nevertheless, there are still hints of persuasion in this article.

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Vocabulary	Some words are repetitively used in the text to emphasize their importance in the discourse. The word "religion" is mentioned 24 times in the article, including the title. It is the most used noun in the text, which proves that it is the main focus of the discourse. The following words, "R20" and "global", each come up 7 and 9 times. In this context, the words are related to each other. This implies that R20 as an international forum is a means of bringing up the discourse so it can become the solution to global problems. Another notable word choice in the article is the use of a modal, "must". The modal appears 5 times, becoming a mark that the article is not a news report, but rather an opinion piece.
Rhetorical	**Findings**
Graphic	Two pictures are attached to the opinion piece. The first picture shows Yahya Cholil Staquf, Nahdlatul Ulama chairman, greeting a local religious figure before the R20 forum. Another picture is the logo of Group of Twenty (G20) Indonesia 2022, pointing out that the R20 was a part of the G20 forum.
Metaphor	The article mentions the theme of the R20 forum, "revealing and nurturing religion as a source of global solutions: an international movement for shared moral and spiritual values". Utilizing metaphor into the theme can be an appeal to the audience. It is rather metaphorical to use words such as "nurturing" religion. The word implies that the forum believes that preserving religious values can help solve global problems.
Expressions	Idiomatic expressions are used in the text. For example, "seize the momentum", meaning that the R20 forum was held in order to take full advantage of the G20 as an international movement. Another example of the idiomatic expression in the article is, "breeds tension, conflict and polarization, as well as violence and war". The expression refers to religious doctrine and claims that potentially create many issues.

The purpose of the opinion was to agree with and convince others that religion should be included as one of the global efforts being made to alleviate global humanitarian concerns. In terms of coherence, the text was written in an inductive format, which means that the primary idea of the text may be found at the beginning of the text. This structure was chosen based on the syntactic features of the sentence forms. Moreover, the writer utilized conjunctions like "therefore" to draw a connection between the problematic aspects of religion and the goal of R20. In the lexicon aspect, the article used a few words repetitively to point out their significance in the discourse. Those words are: "religion", "R20", and "global". Even though there was no addressing pronoun in the article, the use of the modal "must" become a hint of the writer's ideas in the opinion piece. In the rhetorical aspect, the graphic acted as a way to illustrate the event reported to readers. The shown picture of NU's chairman Yahya Cholil Staquf displayed a few of the involved parties in the R20 forum. The G20 logo below it indicated that the R20 was an important part of the international forum. Additionally, the metaphor and idiomatic expressions aided the writer to get the message across.

4. CONCLUSION

This current study, which was carried out within the concept of critical discourse analysis, gave information regarding the structure of the text. According to the findings, it appears that the writer of the opinion piece published on thejakartapost.com media contributed to the formation of a favorable public attitude toward the news. This written text has macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure elements in accordance with the Van Dijk paradigm. The journalist chose a subject that was relevant to the material being delivered, including religious doctrines, in order to persuade the reader. All of this was done in an effort to win over the reader and get their full backing. In order to support the argument made in the main body of the article, the journalist might illustrate the worldwide shift that might occur or a theory regarding the global shift that will take place if religions are included in the global effort. Future research could expand this study by conducting a comparative analysis of R20 forum coverage across multiple Indonesian news outlets, both in English and Bahasa Indonesia, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how the forum is constructed in the national media landscape.

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